

#66

Lady Like

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

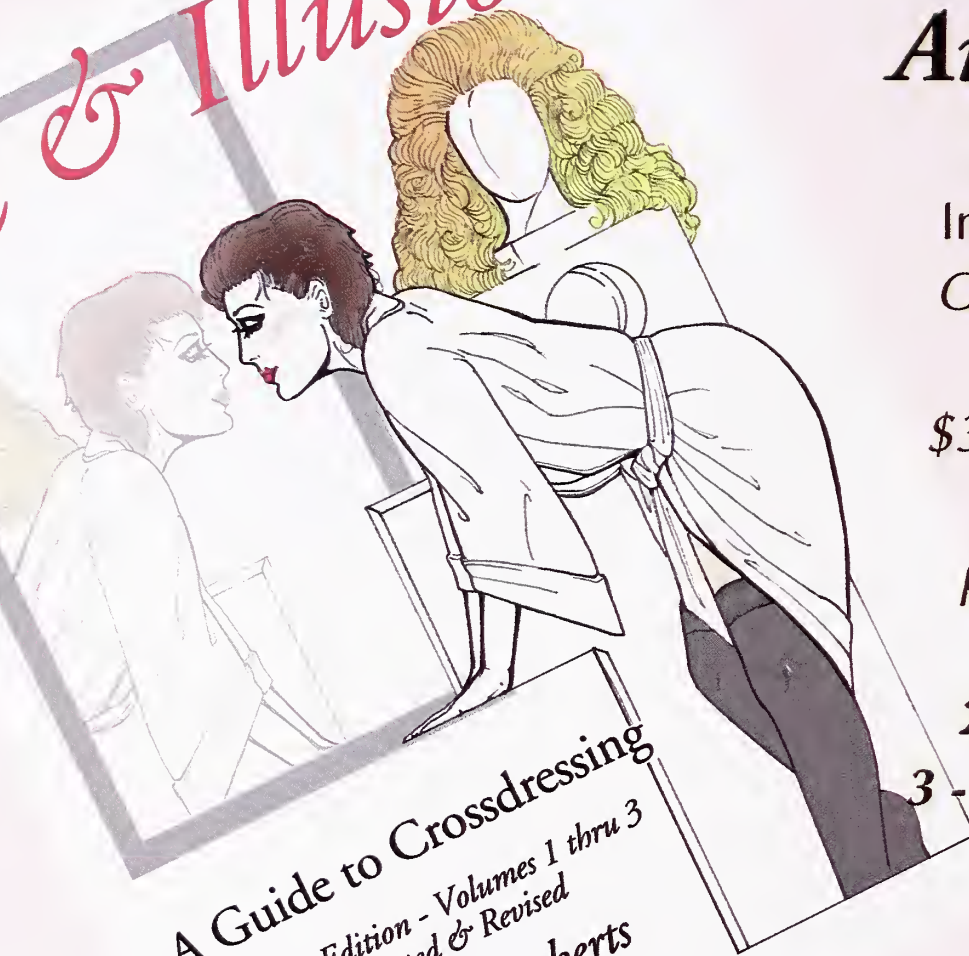


Kelli Su

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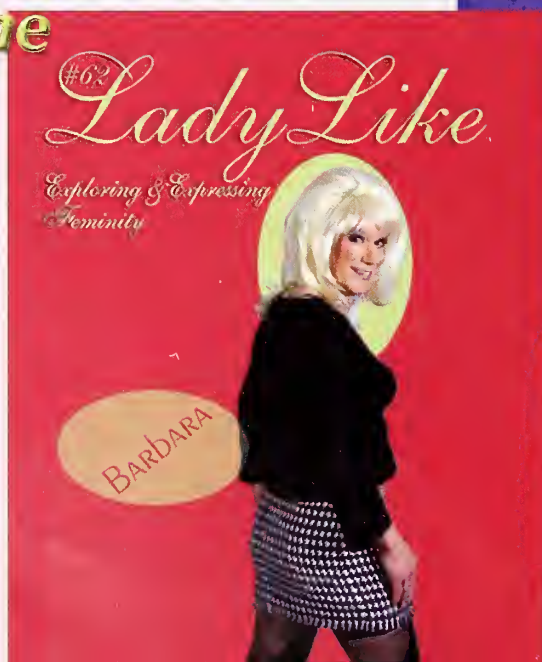
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LadyLike

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Cover photo by Amanda Richards

LadyLike

In This Issue

Features

Profile: Kelli Su. 4

Kelli is one hot-looking T-babe but she's still very closeted.

Does this ring a bell?

17th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. 17

Two awards honored a film and a television show

with transgender themes.

Night Moves 32

Club Marcella, Buffalo, NY and Las Tasca Tapas, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Current Queens 40

Sarah interviews a Queen from coal-country and makes a surprise announcement.

Regulars

Mirror-Mirror (starts on). 11

Dina's Diner 13

Letters 16

Reality Check, Angela Gardner. 26

Lexy Tranner, Weekend TV. 35

Glamour Bits: Amanda Richards. 44

On My Mind, JoAnn Roberts 46

Kelli Su

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 160 lbs

Waist: 34" (can be squeezed down to 30" with a corset)

Age: 43 (will be 44 in October)

Residence: New York City

Profession: Underwriter; healthcare consultant; health planning where benefit coverage and financial data are analyzed.

Shoe Size: 10½

Dress Size: 12

Favorite Clothing: Mini skirts and mini dresses and high-heel pumps which accentuates my long legs.

Favorite Things: All feminine items which are silky and soft which showcase the feminine side of Kelli.

Turn Ons: 100% passable Crossdressing "girlfriends".

Turn-Offs: Guys who are admirers/tranny chasers of 100% passable crossdressers.

Perfume: Obsession or any feminine smelling perfume (not the cheap stuff).

Makeup: MAC Cosmetics

Favorite Music: Contemporary pop; 80s

Favorite Places: Hitting the beach and just being a lounge lizard and watching beautiful bikini clad babes (wishing I was one of them).

Sports: Love playing basketball and banging in the paint (may account for the legs being somewhat toned); cycling; football; baseball/softball; and volleyball.

I'm very competitive in all sporting events.

E-mail Address: Ksuangeltwo@yahoo.com



LL: Hi Kelli! Welcome to the *LadyLike* Profile. Your cover shot is really gorgeous and you are just so sexy. What was your earliest inspiration?

I think that *The Avengers* television series really started me on the crossdressing binge. I thought that Mrs. Peel was extremely hot in her leather/pvc/latex outfits with her black boots. Steed was an extremely lucky guy to have such a hot partner! I guess I was really turned-on by Mrs. Peel and wanted to try on her hot outfits.

LL: I think a lot of girls really would have just died to try on one of those outfits Diana Rigg got to wear in that show. She was an inspiration to me, too. Sadly most young crossdressers didn't have leather cat suits around the house. What clothing did you first get to try on?

K: No, it wasn't a PVC body stocking. Since I was living in an apartment with my parents my first experience was trying on my mom's undergarments. We had a washing machine and no dryer, so clothes usually hung on racks to dry. As a result, I found my mom's pantyhose, long line girdle, and long line bra drying on many occasions. Not quite Mrs. Peel's wardrobe, but it had to do.

LL: My mother had great corsets, that she never wore, and I got into them every chance I could. Finding the opportunity is the hard part. When were you able to try things on?

K: After school (I seem to recall that I may have been in the eighth grade), I usually came home and my parents were at work. That's when I tried things on.

LL: What did you feel like?

K: I felt the rush that most of us experience when we try on tight and confining undergarments. It really felt great, even though I only kept the outfit on for thirty minutes.

LL: You were lucky you had that long. I had to rush through my childhood dress up 'cause I was never sure when my parents would get home. Then it was a challenge to remember just where everything went.

K: I was lucky since everything could just go back in place on the drying racks. But I also immediately felt a sense of guilt and shame.

LL: Most of us think that we're doing something wrong and it bothers us, but it doesn't stop us.

K: Yes, I always found myself thinking about the next time I would be able to try on my mom's undergarments.

LL: When did you progress beyond undergarments?

K: One day while taking out the trash, a neighbor threw out some shoes. I went through the trash bag and found a pair of black platform shoes. It so happened that the shoes fit and I was in heaven.

LL: Cool! Almost as good as Emma Peel's boots. Did you ever get caught in your shoes or mom's underwear?

K: I was only able to put on my mom's undergarments when she did the wash. During one crossdressing session, I went into her closet and got a sundress to go with the undergarments and the shoes. Nothing matched, but I wanted to experience the feeling of dressing in much more than just undergarments. As I was admiring myself in the



mirror my mom suddenly came home and I heard her unlocking the door.

LL: Did she catch you?

K: I was in a panic. I couldn't get the sundress off (it had a back zipper)!

LL: What did you do?

K: I quickly put on a t-shirt, kicked-off the shoes and climbed into bed, pulled up the sheets and pretended to be ill.

LL: Did you get away with it?

K: I pulled it off, but it really gave me such an adrenaline rush. I was eventually able to take everything off and put it all away but it wasn't easy.

LL: As we get older our relationship to crossdressing can shift around. What was your high school time like?

K: My crossdressing feelings never left me but I really didn't dress at all during my high school days. I was preoccupied with dating girls and doing all the guy stuff like playing ball and making the various team sports.

LL: No high school stories, let's move on to college! Where did you go to school?

K: I was accepted to a state university and moved into a dorm. It was during this time that I started noticing how sexy college babes were, especially the "princesses". I loved the way they dressed during campus parties (high-heel pumps,

miniskirts) and was extremely turned-on.

LL: It's good to develop role models.

K: I did my own wash on campus and managed to snag a panty and bra or two while unloading the washing machine. I was able to crossdress very infrequently and, during my junior and senior year, had a girlfriend which put an end to my inner crossdressing feelings for awhile.

LL: Well, it sounds like college was a bit frustrating, crossdressing wise. What happened after graduation? Did your crossdressing urge return? Were you able to satisfy it at last?

K: When I got out of college in May the job market was very slow so, I took a long vacation and visited friends in California.

LL: Road trip!

K: Luckily my parents gave me some vacation funding and told me to enjoy myself before I hunted up a job. They told me that I should enjoy it while I could since working doesn't provide the luxury of extended vacations. Anyway, I was exposed to a ton of activities and stores while vacationing in Los Angeles: Frederick's of Hollywood, Sexy Heels. Needless to say, my crossdressing feelings reemerged.

LL: Frederick's will do that to ya.

K: When I got home I ordered items from the various stores catalogs.

LL: Uh oh, prehistoric shopping practice.

K: It was before the Internet. But using the catalogs I accumulated a large collection of wardrobe items and accessories.

LL: You stockpiled all this stuff while you were still living with your parents?

K: Yes. Several years after my California vacation I met my wife.

LL: How did you meet?

K: Through work. Before we were married we decided to move in together and bought a townhouse. Fortunately, the townhouse had a crawl space where I kept Kelli's clothing well hidden.

LL: She didn't know about your "hobby"? We won't ask how you secretly got the stuff into the crawl space. We know how crafty CDs can be.

K: She had no idea that I dressed up so I had to keep things hidden. Since we weren't married, during major family type holidays,

we celebrated with our respective families. She had to drive to her family and usually spent several days there. That allowed me to be Kelli for a few days at home before I joined my family. However, I was always a guy wearing women's clothing.

LL: We can see from your photos that you've gotten past that stage. We need to know how you did that and if your wife ever find out about Kelli?

K: Kelli has been and will always be a secret from my wife. I love her very much and would not want to jeopardize our relationship by introducing Kelli. I guess this is a typical reaction that guys have regarding their alternate femme self.

LL: We would advise you to try to come up with some way to tell her. If she ever finds out on her own, after years of marriage, it will be that much harder. But, everyone has to do what they must do to deal with having a wife and being their own "other woman."

Let's move on to the fun stuff. How did you move past that man-in-a-dress phase and get so hot?

K: When the Internet took off I was able to do some research and found Glamour Boutique in Auburn, Massachusetts. I took a day off and drove there to purchase and upgrade my wardrobe. I told my wife that I had an all-day meeting in upstate New York and that I would be back late in the evening.

LL: Ah, the old business trip ruse. How did your first visit go?

K: The staff at Glamour Boutique was very friendly and knowledgeable. I got a brand new wig, corset, dresses, pumps, etc. I was in heaven! I couldn't wait to get home and eventually try things on!

LL: Guess your wife doesn't look through the credit card statements.

K: To avoid a paper-trail I paid for everything in cash.

LL: I swear the CIA should hire crossdressers. We have all the skills they need!

K: That's true! Anyway, I was so excited about my new purchases that I called in sick the next day. My wife went to work as usual and I was able to try on my new items for a couple of hours. I was so thrilled with my new purchases that I wanted to get more so, the next month I went to Glamour Boutique again and used another vacation



day and business meeting excuse. The owner, Jon, mentioned that I should get a professional makeover.

LL: And?

K: I checked out the makeup artist's website and I was amazed. I was very skeptical that ordinary guys could be transformed into hot babes!

LL: So it was time to call in sick again? Or have an upstate meeting?

K: As luck would have it I was really scheduled for a lengthy benefits negotiations meeting about two hours from the Glamour Boutique. I was able to arrange a travel day before the meeting and reserved a motel room near the meeting location. I scheduled my makeover/transformation session on my travel day. I was only required to bring my gaff, panties, bra, and tights.

LL: Tell us how it went!

K: I arrived early but I was still skeptical. An ordinary guy becoming a hot babe? I got dressed in the basic required items and the artist filled in the rest. He glued some silicone breasts on and laced me so tightly into a corset that I had difficulty breathing.

LL: Fashion hurts, girl.

K: He put some hip and butt pads on me and did an amazing facelift technique using tape and mini stretch cords. This facelift technique softened my male facial features and provided me with great feminine eyes (even before makeup), and high cheek bones.

LL: Looking hot is forty percent mental and sixty percent foam rubber, tape and rubber bands. Did the results make you a believer?

K: I was so amazed that I couldn't believe my eyes! I was a passable woman... and *hot*!

LL: What about the photo shoot?

K: He had me walk around the Glamour Boutique store and wanted me to admire myself as Kelli. Then he put me through my paces for some modeling pictures. I thought I was in good shape, but the male body is not meant to bend and flex into some of those positions!

LL: Female bodies aren't either! That's why supermodels get the big bucks.

K: Oh, girl! Stretch the neck, face forward, chin down, point the toe, keep the leg straight, keep the arms straight and close to the body, spread the fingers, turn your head back over the shoulder, drop the shoulder. I was sweating profusely and my makeup had to be touched-up constantly. I was really tight, since I was very nervous. My smile wasn't natural, not to mention that I had to concentrate on posing in very difficult positions.

LL: But you loved it, right?

K: Yes, but, here's that guilt thing again. All through the session I couldn't help feeling as though I was cheating on my wife and having an affair with Kelli! I drove the two hours back to my hotel in male mode

and while I drove I was thinking about the awesome makeover/transformation. I was in love with Kelli! Needless to say, I couldn't concentrate at the meeting the next day. All I kept thinking about was Kelli.

LL: I hope you didn't negotiate away any employee benefits!

K: Fortunately not.

LL: You've had more than one makeover. Tell us about the next session.

K: A month later another all day meeting was scheduled so I set up another session and used the same travel day excuse as last time. This time, after I got my makeover there was a guy shopping and he asked me out to dinner! I got "hit" on!

LL: How did that feel?

K: I felt kind of funny and out of place when I answered him in my male voice. He knew that I was a guy, but wanted to take me to dinner anyway. He just said that I didn't need to say anything and to just look pretty.

LL: Two hours away from home, all dressed up with nothing to do... what happened?

K: I thanked him but declined.

LL: Probably for the best. You don't want to go into a meeting smelling of some strange guy's aftershave.

K: Seriously, the encounter made me think. I mentioned to the artist that I had the look, but something was wrong—my male voice. He said that the male voice could be changed to reflect the different octave generated by the female voice. He called one of his clients to have her demonstrate the changeover. Krista spoke to me in her male voice. During the conversation, Krista's voice changed to a hot female voice. I couldn't believe it! I wanted to have this ability so I purchased a DVD on changing the voice. I have not mastered it yet.

LL: Voice is tough because you keep thinking you sound silly. And without a lot of time to practice



you'll have trouble making progress. Speaking of progress, what was the next step after your second transformation?

K: I was in love with Kelli after sessions one and two but I couldn't get back for my next one till the summer. My wife went on a vacation to visit her sister for three days and I told her I couldn't take off since I was very busy at work.

LL: Or busy with corsets and high heels.

K: Yes! I took two vacation days and set up session number three. And this time, I wanted Kelli to go out briefly.

LL: The urge to go out in public. It hits us all at some point. Where did you go?

K: After my makeover I left Glamour Boutique dressed to go clubbing: short black leather mini skirt, red tank top and 3.5" pumps. However, clubbing was still a bit too much, so I just drove back to my hotel, which was, again, two hours away.

LL: You weren't going to a meeting that time. Couldn't you stay closer?

K: Probably but I knew that hotel. Anyway, I have a 5-speed stick shift sports car and it was very difficult shifting into gears with high heels. On several occasions, I peeled out and brought unnecessary attention to myself.

LL: I got my clutch pedal caught in front of my heel one time and I couldn't get it to go down. The bottom of my foot was flat on the floor but the pedal wasn't down! They don't tell you that can happen when they sell you your first pair of spike heel pumps. But, back to your adventure. Tell us what happened?

K: I drove back to the hotel but on the way I had to go through two toll booths.

LL: On no, the toll booth test. How did it go?

K: At the first toll booth I could feel the male toll taker's stare, and almost feel his drool. He took his time in giving me my change. The second toll booth was "manned" by a woman and I could also feel her stare.

LL: But you survived without incident?

K: I eventually made it to my hotel and since my room had an exterior entrance I didn't have to go through the lobby. I felt a big high going out en femme, but I also felt guilty. Was I having an affair with Kelli?

LL: That's what it can feel like. And if you're keeping it secret you have to be really careful that your wife doesn't think you're having an affair with another real

lady. How do you cope with those feelings? Many CDs are lucky enough to have support groups they can attend and that usually helps a lot.

K: I found a great website. It is fabulous! TGs and CDs are able to list their profiles and meet and contact other like-minded sisters! I have met other girlfriends through the Net and it's a great feeling knowing that others are out there.

LL: That's cool. It does help a lot when you have been living in the closet and you make contact with others. Have you actually met anyone in person?

K: Several girlfriends want to go clubbing with me—even though my profile states that Kelli is in the closet and doesn't get out. I have had girlfriends offer to provide me some pointers on being femme and they are willing to lend me outfits. It is very flattering but one has to be very careful out there.

LL: Amanda Richards did the makeover and took the pictures that we're using for your Profile. How did you meet her?

K: I came across Amanda on the Net. I had met her a year or two ago but had lost contact with her. I was so happy to see Amanda that I contacted her immediately. I had no idea that she owned True Colors Salon in Bethlehem, Pa. We got reacquainted, and I scheduled a visit with her at the studio.

LL: How did you like your session with her?

K: I was very nervous but once I met Amanda in person she put me at ease.

Her True Colors studio is a very comfortable environment and she has everything that a "girl" could need: makeup, shoes, and outfits. She uses the same facelift technique that Jamie uses but Amanda's taping technique is a little "gentler" than Jamie's.

LL: How do you think she makes you look?

K: Well, I told her that I wanted Kelli to reemerge and that Kelli wanted to be hot! Amanda brought out a hot, smokin' Kelli. I was in love with the look and transformation.

LL: We've got the photos to prove it but go on and describe what she did.

K: Amanda dressed me in a hot leather outfit: mini skirt, off the shoulder top and thigh high boots with a



punkish/gothic, orange color wig with the appropriate gothic jewelry. She said if I went into a club, I'd be able to have guys do whatever I wanted. I was that hot!

LL: The photos attest to that. And you enjoyed the whole experience?

K: I had a really great time with Amanda. Kelli was reborn (although I'm not sure if I should thank her for that!), and I'm looking forward to my next session at True Colors. Amanda—you rock, girlfriend!

LL: Since you are closeted and hiding your femme side from your wife there's not too far you can go.

K: Kelli is a *big* secret from my wife. I would not do anything to hurt her and would never reveal Kelli to her. However, Kelli will always be around. Unfortunately, Kelli doesn't have much of an opportunity to come out often.

LL: Have you gone through the purging that many CDs try?

K: On two separate occasions I tried to purge Kelli from my inner self.

LL: We just wondered if you had gotten rid of the clothes. Modifying your personality is a little bit harder than tossing out your dresses.

K: Yes, once you have an inner feminine self, you can never really purge, try as one may. As a result, Kelli is here to stay!

LL: Any regrets?

K: The Net opened up a lot of areas for me and I sometimes think that things may have been different had the Internet developed earlier. I may not have been married and Kelli may have gone out more, but I can't think about what might have been, and I just have to deal with my inner feminine self as best as I can.

LL: Since you're going to be sticking around what plans do you have for the future?

K: Well, the Net has certainly piqued my interest in terms of trying to step out and potentially meet other girlfriends. As mentioned, many Internet girlfriends would like me to hang out and go clubbing with them. This is very flattering and has gotten me thinking about it!

LL: What would you need to get on out and hang with the ladies?

K: Kelli needs more time to practice the feminine movements and to train the voice to be more feminine.

LL: There are guys looking for T-girls out there. How would you deal with them?

K: I'm not interested in guys, but this doesn't seem to discourage them from "hitting" on me.

LL: Boys will be boys. Especially when the girl is so sexy.

K: I would consider going out as Kelli with a "girlfriend" escorting me in her male mode, since I don't perceive a threat from fellow "sisters". However, I don't think Kelli will really have an opportunity to go



out.

LL: Your part time femme lifestyles can work but it takes a lot of precision and *Mission Impossible* type planning to fit the things your femme self wants to do into a limited amount of time.

K: And, if I'm lucky, I get to be Kelli once a quarter and then only during scheduled one or two day meetings away from home.

LL: Any last thoughts on your Kelli side?

K: Kelli is very passable looking thanks to the makeup artists, and Kelli is strongly considering "hanging" and clubbing with fellow Internet "girlfriends." I think my Asian features, skin-tone and build certainly helps with Kelli's overall appearance. No doubt, I will have a ton of tranny-chasers contacting me after they read this, and I will apologize to them now since I do not intend to reply.

LL: Thank you so much for taking time to talk to us and share your story with our readers.

K: It's been my pleasure.

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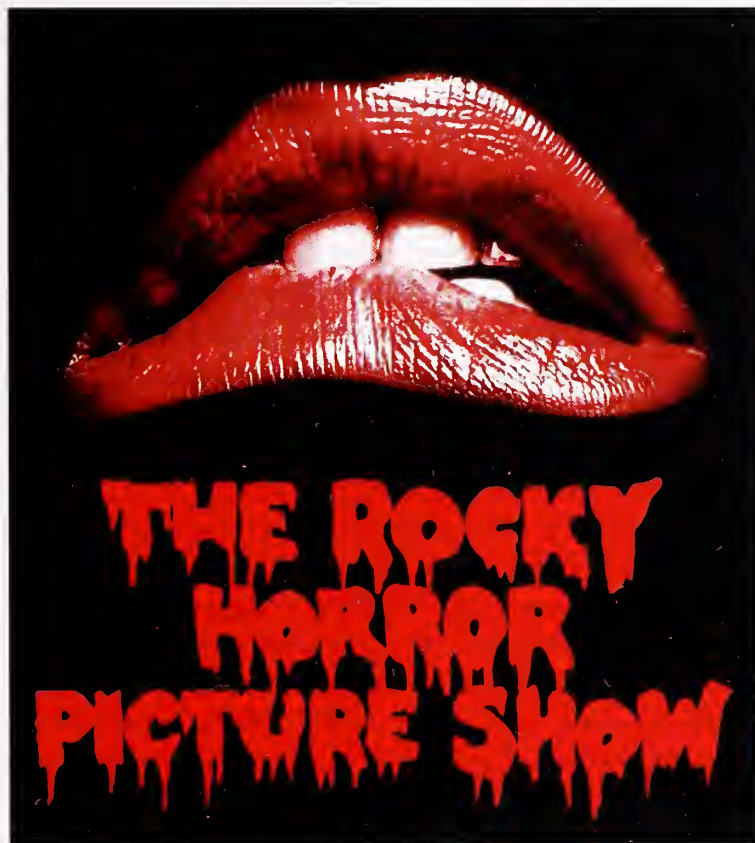
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Dina's Diner

Actor Tim Curry, forever famous as Dr. Frank N. Furter of *Transylvania*, turned 60 years old on April 19, 2006. Could it really be true that we're all getting older here? The film *Rocky Horror Picture Show* is itself 31 years old, which means a lot of the newer generation of crossdressers were not even born when Mr. Curry cavorted onscreen in the iconic bustier, garters, and



fishnet ensemble that inspired so many of us.

When the movie first came out, and then shortly became a midnight show cult blockbuster, I had only a hazy awareness about crossdressing. But I knew it appealed to me on some level that I didn't understand. The idea of actually dressing up in women's clothes, much less doing so in public, was so far out of the realm of imagination that I simply wrote it off as something beyond reach.

Tim Curry went on from his role as Dr. Frank to have a busy career as a working character actor, still active today, unrecognizable from the lingerie-clad, ruby-lipped inspiration for a generation of closeted crossdressers. As for the rest of us, I guess we've also moved on in some respects as well, but probably still clinging to our original conception of ourselves as

that "sweet transvestite" that awoke within us whether before, during, or after the heyday of *Rocky Horror*.

Happy belated birthday, Tim.

SIZE QUEENS

There was a time when I had to scour dozens of crossdressing support group newsletters, transgender websites, and the occasional dirty magazine in order to uncover news items about crossdressing. But our editrix Angela gave me a heads up about an article that appeared in no less a journalistic institution than the *New York Times* on Sunday, April 9, 2006.

The article in question was headlined "If the Shoe Fits, You're Lucky" by *Times* reporter Coeli Carr in the Sunday Styles section. It concerned a topic near and dear to all crossdressed men: finding high heels that fit properly. The article was prompted by the opening of the independent film *Kinky Boots* about a family shoe manufacturer that reinvents itself to make shoes and boots for drag queens.

The *Times* went out to find real-life drag queens who have a difficult time finding fashionable women's shoes for their stage performances. One New York-based queen had the typically humorous drag name of Trai La Trash. Ms. La Trash has a problem finding footwear because she is 6'1" and 275 pounds. Trai needs a woman's size 14 in order to queen it up in a big way, if you can pardon the pun. The other featured drag queen in the article was Nicole Diamond who lives and works in Lexington, Kentucky. Ms. Diamond is another big, beautiful drag queen who requires a woman's size 12 before she can plant her feet on the stage. The article included

Ms Trai La Trash & friend.





photos of Misses La Trash and Diamond, both of whom have that pleasantly plump beauty of the large drag queen. It also included a small photo of actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (which can be both pronounced and mis-pronounced phonetically) en femme in the role of "Lola" in "Kinky Boots."

The interesting thing in the article was the lengths the queens went to in order to get themselves comfortably and fashionably shod for their stage personas. Trai La Trash, after trying all the usual commercial outlets for sexy shoes, finally broke down and went to Capezio for custom-made pumps in metallic silver, gold, and black leather. They cost \$300 a pair, which tells me that New York drag queens must be doing alright financially these days. Her entire shoe collection is somewhere north of 100 pairs. The lovely Miss Diamond opts for bridal heels that she can have dyed to match her outfits at \$40-50 per pair.

The *Times* reporter spoke to David Shaffer, director of sales for Capezio, and he admitted that they hear from a lot of drag performers who have problems with ill-fitting high heels. The secret to well-made drag heels is a strong heel cup that holds the foot firmly and prevents sliding and tottering that can cause injury. Mr. Ejiofor said it took lessons from a choreographer and steel-shanked high heels to keep him safe while performing and dancing as the drag queen character in the film. The specially constructed hip-high boots made for the film reportedly cost 350 British pounds, about \$615 American, and would retail for about \$800.

Mr. Shaffer of Capezio made a comment that all of us can immediately identify with and which I hope will register in the minds of everyone—male and female—who read this article in the *Times*. In a world where unisex-type garb has been the norm for a couple of decades, "the woman's dress shoe is perhaps the last bastion remaining where a gal's shoe is really that." The quote from Mr. Shaffer is, "If you put on a high-heeled shoe, people say: that's a woman's shoe, that's a woman."

MOM? DAD? WHATEVER?

An unusual child custody case came to the public forefront in late March 2006. Authorities found a woman who had abducted her two children and was

living as a man on the other side of the country.

Shellie White, 30, was arrested in North Carolina on charges of kidnapping the children, then aged 3 and 5 years old, from their father who had joint custody in Arizona. The abduction case took a strange turn when the former Mrs. White was found passing as a man with a female companion (wife?) after two years on the run. Authorities said that Shellie had used her ex-husband's identity as well as some other male aliases while on the lam with her kids. For her part (his part?) she says she was living openly and the kids went to school under their own names.

Shellie was also found in a domestic arrangement with another woman whose name was not disclosed. According to the children, Shellie told them to call herself "Daddy" and the other woman "Mommy." Erica, the older of the two children said, "After awhile he started asking us to call him Daddy, and we got real confused," *Note Erica's use of the male pronoun while referring to her biological mother.* The U. S. Marshals Service said that when they apprehended Shellie White, the children asked why they were arresting their "Daddy."

Shellie's ex-husband said that she did not exhibit any male appearance during their time together. "She had long hair and at the time we were together, she actually looked like a woman. She's just altered her appearance, I would say probably within the last five years," he said. Shellie admitted to reporters that she had considered sex change surgery but she also said that her masculine appearance was natural. The one news photo I saw of her showed a chubby masculine-appearing face with a light mustache.

Marriages go south every day and sometimes it's a result of gender issues on either side of the coupling. It's just a damn shame to see little kids get swept up into this kind of scarring selfishness. Whether by the actions of Dad or Mom... it's just wrong.

SIS, BOOM, VA-VA-VOOM!

The *Manchester (England) Evening News* carried an article about a scandalous cheerleading team that is accused of wearing too-sexy uniforms. The article appeared in the March 27, 2006 edition of the newspaper.

The cheerleading squad, named the Spirit Shockers from Glossop, England, was banned from competition for appearing in outfits the authorities deemed too skimpy. The official reason was that the officials were afraid that the skin-bearing uniforms would force the girls to indulge in dangerous diets to stay in shape to wear the uniforms.

The British Cheerleaders Association said that the Spirit Shockers' new uniforms ran afoul of the regulation against bare midriffs. Besides the fear that girls might

feel the need to diet excessively to fit the image of the new uniforms, they don't want the cheerleaders to look like "exotic dancers."

The team's coach, Hannah Jones, who is only 21 herself, said that the girls wanted to wear the uniforms and are disappointed at the ban. But the ruling association is cracking down on what they see as a trend towards too much makeup and sexy costumes that make the girls look like exotic dancers. "Cheerleading is an athletic discipline and the outfits should reflect that, and not make the girls look like exotic dancers." (The article used that term three times; it's not my dirty mind at work, I want you to know.) The association also addressed the (Ahem) growing issue of childhood obesity and said they were afraid that skimpy outfits would place undue pressure on girls to diet excessively to keep up with their teammates.

The Spirit Shockers cheerleading squad now must raise funds for "more appropriate costumes" for an upcoming major competition in July. The Spirit Shockers include girls and women aged 6 to 21 years of age. Team member Beckie Bowman had this to say about the uniform dust-up: "If we are comfortable showing flesh, then we should be allowed to wear our uniforms." Beckie Bowman is 14 years old.

I feel so dirty now.

BREAKIN' THE LAW, BREAKIN' THE LAW

The following short news item hit the wires on March 21, 2006. I searched and searched for more news about the misguided, crossdressed felon to no avail. Here is the original item in its entirety:

"Fishnet Hosiery Does in Robbery Suspect. MONTEREY, Calif. (AP)—A man's pantyhose led to his arrest, authorities said. An unshaven man wearing a black evening gown, fishnet stockings, calf-high boots and a black wig robbed a USA Gas station Monday morning, authorities alleged. The armed man stuffed \$290 in cash into an ensemble-matching black purse. 'I've been with the department for 22 years, and this is the first time I've heard of this happening anywhere here,' police Lt. Phil Penko said."

I've been writing about crossdressed crimes for 11 years, Officer Penko, and it may only be a first in your town but hardly the first crossdressed robbery in our safe, sane country, the good ol' US of A. Yes, crossdressed criminals populate this column regularly—or irregularly—or something.

About 35 minutes after the robbery, police Officer Chad Ventimiglia spotted a black Saab with fishnet pantyhose hanging from the front driver's side door, dragging on the ground, investigators said. The car was pulled over and Michael Leslie Clouse, 26, was arrested and booked for investigation of armed robbery. A plastic replica handgun allegedly was found inside

his purse, Penko said.

The fishnet stockings play an important part in this drama (much like *Rocky Horror Picture Show!*). Maybe Michael Leslie was doing this as an homage for Tim Curry's then-upcoming 60th birthday. Or maybe not. I suspect the \$290 played an important part in this crossdressed caper. Maybe he should have waited until gas prices rose to pull the heist. I mean, for cryin' out loud, 290 bucks is chump change at most gas stations nowadays. I guess the moral of the story is that you should never leave your fishnets dragging out the door of your car like the hem of a too-long raincoat. Oh, and yeah, don't rob gas stations in drag, girls. This last bit of advice is my community service quota for the magazine.

So questions remain about the episode. Was the drag merely a robbery disguise? Was the unshaven Michael Leslie a closet crossdresser who simply needed more thrills than just joyriding in his Saab wearing a gown, boots and fishnets? How could even the most hawk-eyed officer in a passing cruiser tell they were "fishnet" pantyhose? Was the AP reporter poking fun—or admiring—the "ensemble-matching black purse"? Was Mr. Clouse going to use the 290 bucks to upgrade his calf-high boots to something a bit kinkier? And finally, the question that is on the tips of all our tongues: do you have photos posted anywhere, Michael?

How To Submit Photos

We now accept **digital photos** if they are of sufficient resolution. **Do not** overly compress digital photos. **Do not** send digital photos by email without permission **first**. We **cannot** use inkjet prints. We need real glossy photographs. Please do not send more than four (4) photos. If you include your mailing name and mailing address on the back of your photos, we will print your address with your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. **Do not** write on the photos with a ballpoint pen. **Use a permanent marker** and make sure **the ink is dry** before putting them in the envelope. **If you are a subscriber**, we'll forward mail for you for the length of your subscription. Write your **customer number** on your photos. **If you are not a subscriber**, include \$10 with your photo and we will forward mail to you for a year.

How To Reply To Photos

If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or look for a forwarding number (like FWD9999) with the photo. If there is a FWD number, write your letter, put it in an envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For **each** letter to be forwarded, put your letter (in its envelope), correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at *LadyLike Magazine*, c/o PO Box 491, Lionville, PA 19353-0491.

How To Subscribe

LadyLike is the publication that treats the subjects of transvestism and cross-dressing as they should be treated, with respect and sophistication. Chock full of great features and loads of photos, you won't want to miss a single issue. Every issue contains important and useful information to help you realize the "ladylike" qualities within yourself.

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Letters

*She Pays Up
and Heaps Praise*
Dear Jo Ann,

Here is my subscription renewal check for *LadyLike* for the next eight issues—two years. JoAnn, please do not feel as if you must apologize for the small price increase; I still believe that "our" magazine is a tremendous bargain! It is easily recognizable that Angela's and your efforts in each issue represent much more than a job for profit. It is clearly seen to also be a labor of love.

I know this is the last thing you



Joan

want to hear, but I just wish you could "put it out" (Oops, Freudian slip?), publish *LadyLike* every other month instead of quarterly. Every issue allows me to feel close to so many sisters. I especially enjoy Jane Martin's titillating articles.

I have enclosed a few pictures

for Mirror, Mirror. You have been so kind to have included pictures of Joan in the past. I indulge you to be so honored in future issues. I just wish my "yesterday and today" pictures were as flattering as JJ's in the last issue, page 42.

Please include my address as I love to hear from and to meet kindred sisters of our special world. From time to time I feel a bit isolated here in the greater San Antonio-Austin area.

Hugs and Kisses,

Joan

PO Box 311992

New Braunfels, TX 78131-1992

#3919

Every other month? That would make us bil

Ere's A Bird From Across The Pond

Dear *LadyLike*

I really enjoy reading your magazine and I was very pleased to see my photos in print over the last year and a bit! I have been on the TV scene for many years now, and belong to the Mayflower Club, which is the biggest in the South of England. Web page:

<http://www.mayflower-club.org.uk>, Email address: michelle@mayflower-club.co.uk.

I met my partner twenty-nine years ago, and we have lived together for twenty four of them. Being dressed is no problem for my partner, and she supports me in what I choose to do.

Please, keep up the good work on the magazine and I look forward to many more excellent reads!

Best Regards,

Barbara #4437



Barbara

Avoiding Hosiery Hazards

Dear Angela,

I received my latest issue of LL (64) recently and of course read it from cover to cover. I enjoyed your article on getting an unexpected compliment. A similar thing happened to me on a visit to P'town on Cape Cod.

Here are some "hosiery hazards" that may be helpful to some of the girls. A lot of us love the look of fishnet stockings and tights, as they are always flattering to the leg, but they can be a hazard at times. Wearing them over a bare foot stuffed into a tight heel can actually slice into skin and cause a nasty cut. It is wiser and much more comfortable to don a complimentary, or even contrasting pair of pantyhose first and then let the fishnets glide over the "underlayment" all evening.

Also when buying thigh-high



Cena

stockings one must be careful to get the proper size and take care to smooth the "stay-up" bands carefully and completely about the leg, especially the silicon bands. They can irritate the skin and even cause damage if snug and worn for long periods. I once fell asleep with a pair that were pinching and binding on one thigh and the resulting infection was not pleasant.

I'm enclosing some photos I hope you can use.

Yours in silky stockings,

Cena Williams

#2710

Another advantage of the regular pair of hose under your fishnets is that your legs don't get as cold in the winter. Black nets over red hose looks pretty sexy, too.

She's Learning to Share

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

Thank you for publishing my letter and photos in LL 64. It is much appreciated.

Enclosed you will find a postal m/o for my renewal. *LadyLike* is without a doubt the best magazine of its kind out there. There are no close seconds.

A lot has happened since I wrote to you last, and I would like to share it with you. Several sisters responded to my photo in LL 62. They were from all over the U.S. and there was even one from Canada. They were all complementary about my appearance and asked me about my experiences as Michelle. Now, Michelle is a very private person, and has never shared herself with anyone except a close personal friend. I thought it



Michelle

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Letters

would be rude not to respond, so I did reply to all of the sisters who had written to me.

I am so glad I did as it has opened up a whole new aspect of dressing that I didn't know existed. It's wonderful to be able to correspond to fellow sisters who feel the same way that I do about dressing and share intimate secrets. My only regret is that this didn't happen years ago.

As you know, Michelle likes to get out and shop. One of my favorite malls is in Danbury, Connecticut. It has all the large department stores; Macy's, J. C. Penney, Sears, Lord & Taylor, and Filene's.

Most of the shoppers are young, married mothers pushing strollers, so you can relax and just enjoy the pleasure of shopping. I have been to the mall at least a dozen times and Michelle has never had a problem. I don't pretend to be able to pass all the time; what I am saying is that I am sure I was made, but that it was never a problem. I would highly recommend the mall to my fellow sisters who are thinking about going out for the first time. The sales people at all the stores are friendly and I know that they made me because I don't try to talk in a feminine voice.

There are also a lot of upscale women's boutiques that have a wonderful selection of clothes. Michelle's favorite is a store called Caché. They tend to carry clothes in the smaller sizes so that lets me out, although I have been able to find several blouses in my size. What they do have that turns me on are some fine jewelry pieces that they have custom made.

Sisters, I hope that I have convinced some of you to get out and about. Try it, you will like it; just one problem, it could become addictive.

Love,
Michelle

Hudson Valley, NY
#667

We're glad you've learned to share your CD life with your sisters and very glad that you are getting out and enjoying your femme self in public venues. While for the most part you will be safe in a mall be sure to keep in mind the time of day and year. There can be unpleasant incidents with school age kids, particularly outside of the anchor stores and in the general mall or food court. Gangs of kids can feel emboldened to make comments or be abusive to those they find who are different. I go to malls all the time to shop but I keep an eye open for young whippersnappers who might cause verbal discomfort. Do your mall cruising when the kiddies are in school and you will avoid all unpleasantness. And don't forget to project confidence. You have every right to shop where you want and if you look like you belong there even if they read you as a man in women's clothing they will leave you alone.

Afraid To Forward
Dear JoAnn,

As you can tell from my customer number I have been a subscriber to *LadyLike* for many years now and I certainly understand the need for an increase in the rate. As usual, I am enclosing payment for two years to make sure that I don't lose out on a single issue of your wonderful publication. I can't even begin to tell you how much *LadyLike*, Paradise in the Poconos, and now Beauty and the Beach have meant to me. Living in a small Midwest community your publication and events have given me the door to a whole other world, the world where I feel that I belong. Being one of your more aged, retired ladies, I grew up in the era of condemnation and ostracism that plagued those who were "different" from the norm. I am envious of the younger ladies who have more freedom to express their inner feeling, but still I wouldn't trade those times of loving husband, father and grandfather relationships for additional time to be the female that resides within. I

think that it is because of you and the girls I've gotten to know that I can reconcile my two halves to be the one that I am.

It was indeed a pleasure to finally find one of my pictures in



Susann

the Mirror/Mirror section. I was beginning to think that this lady just wasn't enough lady for *LadyLike*. Maybe I'll gather enough gumption to begin using the forwarding service that you provide within the next two years.

I am looking forward to the next Beauty and the Beach and hope that more of the girls would take advantage of this opportunity to gather, make friends, and to discover new things about ourselves. I must admit that this past year when it was time to return home in male mode I felt that I was crossdressing

to become a guy. How wonderful it would have been not to have to do that. I also am looking forward to my next and every issue of *LadyLike*. Keep up the good work, especially with giving us support, helpful hints, showing makeovers (I wouldn't mind being a subject) and allowing girls to relate their experiences to the rest of us. I can't praise or thank you, Angela and the rest of the staff, enough.

Always,

Susann

Using the forwarding service is a right of every *LadyLike* subscriber. Don't shy away from it if you would like to correspond with other readers. We only send the letters on to the address you request and things are addressed discreetly. No big stamps that say CROSSDRESSER MAIL!!! We would never do something bad like address your forwarded mail to your femme name if that's not the name we had as your mailing name. So be confident and use the forward boldly!

Bunny's Gonna Burst!

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

I'm so happy I could just burst. Thank you, thank you for using two of my pictures in the Mirror-Mirror section of *LadyLike* 64. I feel as if I've recently been voted into a very exclusive sorority. I sit now with all the beautiful ladies of *LadyLike*. Again, thank you.

The picture of me in LL 64 in the Playboy Bunny outfit was taken on a Saturday night right before a Henry David Halloween Ball, back when dinosaurs walked the earth. I did not have to return the costume till Monday, and my wife was working Sunday, soooo... I had to try it on again. Here is a much better picture me in the same costume, in my basement with a different wig. Hope you can find a spot for it in a future LL.

JoAnn, Angela, I am now your loyal servant, to do whatever you wish... please be gentle.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Joy O'Neil, Philadelphia, PA

No special orders at this time. Just keep hoppin'.



And Now. Critic's Corner

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

Enclosed is my check for \$40 for issues 65-68. It's still a bargain and I'm amazed that you've been able to hold the line for as long as you have. Also enclosed are four



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Letters

of my latest photo endeavors. Just by coincidence some show me reading the magazine!

I hope the photos have all the correct information on the back. My last ones, submitted last August, had my name and email address but perhaps this was not sufficient inasmuch as none have appeared.

You keep on improving the look of the magazine! However, I was sorry to see the graceful, ladylike title typeface introduced on the cover of 54 replaced by—at least to my eye—a more gender-neutral font on 63.

Looking back on the past four issues the cover on 61 was one of your most drop dead gorgeous in a long time, the essence of what I think we are all about. On the other hand the design of 62 I thought a bit amateurish, and most unflattering to the lovely Barbara Roberts by cutting off her mile long legs, and those hot boots as well.

You redeemed yourself on 63 (except for the new font and again cutting off the legs). Lowla Valentine's dress and demure, ladylike pose are dynamite and I love the background treatment and the big heart!

Number 64's cover is a real eyepopper, with a similar background technique and all that brilliant yellow shared by Louise's jacket and that hot Avanti! You had me convinced this was the latest Hot Rods and Hot Bods issue, though I see we still have that to look forward to.

Just a couple of recent adventures en drabbe that may be of interest: I had to drop off film from a recent photo session and in the process was relating to the nice lady my trials and tribulations with the self-timer. I figured, what the hell, and told her what I was doing. She wanted to see the pictures, and is now an enthusiastic fan! Cool!

Got the drippy crystal earrings that appear in the two photos with the diamond-pattern pantyhose at a yummy new store in downtown Utica called Chic Boutique. The shop caters mainly to the young, single women with really hot merchandise (and a hot, attractive young owner, too. You should have seen the cutout back of the top she was wearing when I bought these). Only wish she had some of her clothes in my size. Just one example, she had a T-shirt for sale with sparkly lettering, "Diamonds and Stilettos," that really hit me where I live.

And didn't I run into a woman I've known for years as a producer of local teenage beauty pageants in there? (Shades of my "church hottie.") I've never seen her dressed any way except total glitz and glam, and this evening was no exception; long white fur coat, short dress (couldn't really see much of it under the coat), white lace hose, and ivory heels with pointed toes that I would happily have fallen down and worshipped on the spot had I been so commanded. I've photographed her pageants in past years, so she knows me pretty well, but this was the first time she ever caught me buying jewelry. I made no bones about why and she didn't bat a long false eyelash!



Surfing the Net recently I discovered a high heel vendor, from way up in northern Maine of all places! Whether or not your taste in heels runs to the 6" and 7" variety, or even if you just enjoy looking at pictures of such, check out www.archenemys.com. Their shoes ain't cheap, but they're hot with their "Super Arch" and available in large sizes. They also sell what look to be some equally hot high-heel fetish videos with very attractive GG models (plus one T-girl).

I linked to this site from another favorite site I discovered by craning my neck one day to see what the guy at the next computer in the public library was looking at; www.modelmayhem.com. This is a vast site profiling photographers, models (mostly female, but also males and even a few girls like us. LadyLike cover girl Kryztal Black has a page on it).

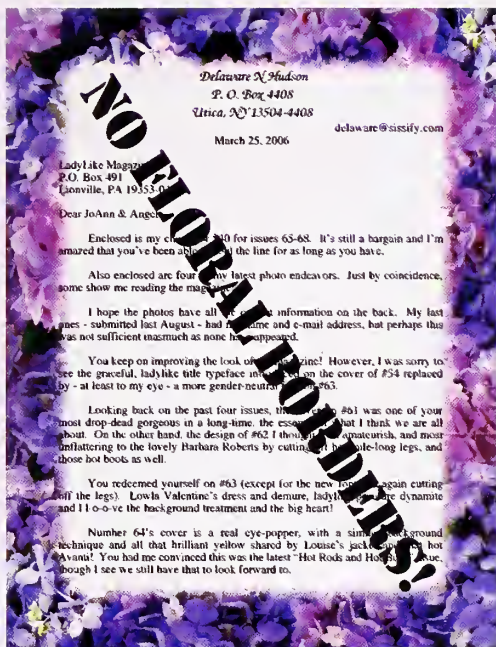
Well, I must get this in the mail. As always, keep up the good work!

Hugs 'n' best wishes,

Delaware N. Hudson, PO Box 4408, Utica, NY 13504-4408, delaware@sissfy.com

Thanks for your critique of our last few covers. We particularly appreciate that it's well balanced, with a bit of praise—and then a kick in the keister. Sometimes all the unadulterated praise we get makes our heads swell and we can't get our wigs on. You've certainly brought us back to earth and shrunk our craniums with the way you sliced up issue 62. I must warn you though that Astra is the lady-in-charge of layout and picking on her choice of font, or on what she decides to cut off of a picture will not endear you to her. (And may leave you open to loss of body parts, too.) Remember, LadyLike depends on you, the readers, to be the prettiest, most poised models and if we only have photos with flaws when it's time to go to press then we have to do our best. If Barbara's legs had to be sacrificed it was no doubt for a good reason. Thanks for the praise of issues 61 and 63, though.

Thanks also for the websites. Model Mayhem is the perfect place for aspiring



Ladylike cover girls to pick up tips on how to pose to the best advantage.

Now though, it's critique time for Delaware! While we know that sending letters on colored paper with floral designs around the borders is a lot of femme fun, it makes for a lot of work. Colored paper with graphics is just hell to scan so your editor's manicure gets all chipped from typing letters with backgrounds and colored paper in by hand. Where the heck is my intern? Please, if you continue to use the old fashioned, 20th century method of getting your letters and pictures to us—use white paper. Pale pink is acceptable if you absolutely must. Or, if you want to be a hip and happenin' 21st Century gal, email your letter with the photos attached! I have a Ladylike email box and no one ever sends me anything for weeks at a time. Put away that ancient typewriter and that dusty word processor and email your Ladylike letters to angela@cdspub.com. Scan your pictures at 300 dpi (or get a photo disk from your processor) and attach your photos to your email. That way I won't have to go through trials and tribulations to get your letter and pic into the next issue and I won't get all cranky, like Astra, when you cut up her choice of font.

Curious Kitten

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

I'm curious as to how you choose the ladies for the Profile. It's been a dream of mine to be a Profile girl ever since I saw the first LadyLike

Profile of Janet Edwards in the premier issue. I'm sure it's a dream of most of the girls that send in



pictures but if you're ever running short of Profile candidates, please let me know. I do have quite a few pictures amassed over the years and have had some interesting experiences as Kristen.

Thanks for a great magazine,
Kirsten Ashley Embers
4819

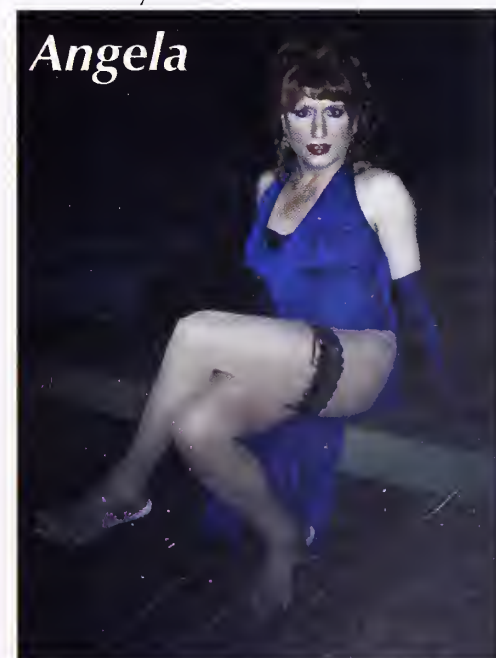
Most often we pick our Profile girls from the group of ladies who ask us if they can be a Profile girl. (By the time you read this you may already have been selected.) Sometimes we meet someone and just know they should be a Profile girl. Most of the time we have a few people in mind or already lined up. As of this writing we have girls lined up for the rest of this year. What makes a Profile girl? We look for ladylike qualities, of course. Beauty, poise, fashion sense and an interesting story all factor in to the decision about who gets on the cover. Another important factor is how many high quality photos the candidate has.

We haven't been able to use some girls since they didn't have enough good photos in general or a great cover photo in particular. What's a good photo? Either glossy prints (we really, really hate those textured prints. They reprint looking very blurry) or high resolution digital shots. If you have a digital camera it must be at least 3 megapixels and the files should be in the same condition they were when they were downloaded from the camera. Send them to us on a CD. If you have enlarged, cropped or changed the photos you may have reduced their usefulness. Leave them alone! We need an 8.5 by 11" photo for the cover and that has to be fabulous and high resolution. Vary the poses, outfits and backgrounds! The final requirement for being a Profile girl is good communication. If you only use snail mail and it's hard for us to contact you then your possibility of being on the cover slips down. Those with email have an advantage. So, be poised, ladylike, have 15-20 great photos with a variety of poses and backgrounds, write an essay about your life in ladies clothing, send all that to us and be prepared to wait a year or so before you see yourself in print. It's as simple as that.

Ch, ch, ch changes!

Dear LadyLike,

Enclosed you will find my check for \$40 for my next four issues of your wonderful magazine. I've also included three of my favorite pics from the latest Angela outings. By the time your readers read this letter



I will have started my journey into transforming into the woman I have longed to be. I know I'll have many hills to conquer but feel ready. If any of you ladies would care to correspond and become friends feel free to write to me.

Angela A. Foxx

PO Box 514

Chesterfield, MO 63006

angelafoxx@sbcglobal.net

Good luck Angela and keep sharing your photos and story with our readers.

These Boots Are Made For Walkin'

Dear Angela and JoAnn.

Thank you so much for including me in *LadyLike* 64. It's important to



know that whatever walk of life we may come from, we're not alone. *LadyLike* certainly helps bring together TGs who otherwise may never have know one another.

I read Rev. Candy's "Who The Hell Am I?" and Joy Kamei's letter in which she mentions Rev. Candy's role in her life. I correspond with both and I'm very glad to have come to know them.

I've enclosed a few photos for

your consideration, including two with a 1960s style theme. I bought the dress specifically for Halloween but didn't have a chance to wear it anywhere.

I hope everyone is doing well. Take care.

Love Beverly, #3903

Stepping Out of The Closet in Maine

Hello Ladies.

Thank you so much for putting out such a nice and informative magazine.

I started dressing at the early



age of nine and like many of us I thought I was the only kid that wanted to wear his mom's clothes. Now at age 46 I can see that I have much in common with many out there. For years I hid my hobby. I didn't have many clothes to choose from, "borrowing" things from my wives panty drawers (I've been married three times) and closets. I had told each of them about my dressing desires and each in their own way tried to accept it.

If it is possible I would appreciate any information regarding any transgender events, groups or what have you in the Maine area. I read a letter from Jayne in issue 63 and that prompted me to write. I look forward to seeing the photos in *Mirror-Mirror* and reading the letters.

If there are no crossdressing groups in Maine that you might know of I would like some information as to how to start a group. I live in Western Maine and I believe that if there were a place for dressers to go they would.

My name is Lori. If anyone would like to write to me I will give you my address: W. L., 120 Cheryl Lane, Oxford, ME 04270. Follow the motto ladies, be all you can be.

Love,

Lori

The closest group to you seems to be Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101. There is one other support group in Maine, the Maine Gender Resource & Support in Bangor. You can contact them by mail c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894 Bangor, ME 04402-1894. For more information on groups and events we highly recommend that you get online. The most useful site for finding good information about the TG community is TG Forum (www.tgforum.com) As for starting a support group, it's a good idea if you attend a few meetings of a group so that you get an idea of what's involved in running one. If the closest one is hundreds of miles away then you should read up on starting a group. A good place to get info on what it takes to start a group is The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc. in Pennsylvania. They have a Background Paper, which is a fancy name for a how-to guide, called Background Paper #1: Building an Organization. It's available online at their site: www.ren.org or you can write to them and request a copy. Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087.



Barbara
UK, #4437



Mary Alice

*Mirror
Mirror*



Barbara Roberts
PO Box 6372
Baltimore MD 21280
0372



Foxy Roxy
TX, #3621



Roberts, #3637

17th Annual GLAAD Media Awards Featured TGs



Above: Alexis Arquette, star of *The Surreal Life* on VH1, presented the award for Outstanding Documentary with her sisters, Patricia and Rosanna. Photo by Jeff Vespa/WireImage.com



On April 8, 2006 Teri Hatcher, Nicolette Sheridan, Jessica Alba, Laura Dern, Eric McCormack, Debra Messing, Megan Mullally, Sean Hayes, and Patricia, Rosanna and Alexis Arquette were among the dozens of celebrities who joined the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) as it honored Charlize Theron, Melissa Etheridge, and the best in film and television at the 17th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. Presented by Absolut Vodka in Los Angeles at the Kodak Theatre. This year several projects about or starring TGs

(l. to r.) Raci Ignacio, Gabbie Gibson, T.J. Jourian, Lucas Cheadle, Jeremy Simmons and Thairin Smothers (kneeling) of TransGeneration won for Outstanding Documentary. Photo by Jeff Vespa/WireImage.com



Felicity Huffman as Bree Osbourne and Kevin Zegers as her son Toby in The Weinstein Company's *Transamerica*, winner of Outstanding Film - Limited Release.

received awards. Among them were *Transamerica*, starring Felicity Huffman, which was named Outstanding Film - Limited Release, and *TransGeneration* in the Outstanding Documentary category. *TransGeneration* the lives of several TG students and aired on The Sundance Channel

and Logo.

Here we present some photos from the event showcasing the transgender presenters and honorees.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of people and events



The lovely Raci Ignacio, one of four transgender teenagers as she appeared in the documentary *TransGeneration*.



Asanee Suwan portrays real-life transgender kick-boxer Parinaya Charoemphol in Regent Releasing/here! Films' *Beautiful Boxer*, which was nominated for Outstanding Film - Limited Release.

in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.



Andrea James, Felicity Huffman's voice coach and Calpernia Addams, from *Transamerica*. Photo by John Shearer/WireImage.com

Lady Like
P.O. Box 491
Lionville, PA 19353

Pay to the
order of:

Reality Check

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
Angela Gardner



Hello my little
nylon stockings!
It's another issue of
LadyLike magazine
and it's packed with
tons of feminine fun.
After all, that's what
we're all about.

One of the axioms of the universe is that the only constant is change. While things might seem to be one way for a long, long time that doesn't mean they can't change over night. Just ask the former Soviet Union or people from New Orleans. Sometimes the changes happen fast, sometimes slowly. We have had readers who went from the closet to the runway and told us about it in their letters. Some of our girls have identified as crossdressers and then after a few years have announced that they were going to go for sex reassignment surgery. Some of those identifying as heterosexual crossdressers found out that they liked the attentions of gentlemen a little bit more than they thought. Many have told us of their divorces. (Because their wife found out about their boyfriend?) All of these changes have been shared by readers sending in their letters to the editor.

I'm talking about changes because this issue brings a changes on both the magazine and personal levels. Magazine-wise this issue marks the last Current Queen column by Sarah Thomas. Sarah has decided to retire and her

column is being taken over by one of her former subjects, Vicky Vogue. Vicky lives in the Buffalo New York area and has tons of friends who will soon grace our pages in the Current

Queen column. Welcome aboard Vicky. (She has a piece about a club in Buffalo in "Night Moves" this issue.)

Personally your editor has some frothy, femme fun to share. She's got a boyfriend! Oh, it's so good to be able to talk about my fella with you girls. Get some coffee, or better cocktails. Seriously, in past columns I have written about how hard it can be to find someone to have a relationship with. It's hard enough for regular, garden-variety men who don't have the urge to wear dresses and heels to find someone (whether straight or gay) but when you add in the CD factor it can seem downright impossible. Not having had a female lover for several years was beginning to make me grumpy. And, while I have been open to interest from men there either hadn't been any or it came from men I had no interest in dating. Since there hadn't been any nibbles from women (Yes, I'll always be attracted to women, especially those who nibble on me) I was not dating either sex in either gender. So it went from day-to-day until January of this year.

You all know I started to host parties for transgendered people, their friends and admirers last year in Philadelphia. (See www.tgat12.tv) Originally dubbed TG@L2 the parties moved to the suburbs of Philly at the end of 2005 and became Angela's Laptop Lounge. So called because I do the DJ job by playing tunes off of my laptop computer (an Apple iBook.)

At the Lounge in January a tall, attractive gentleman offered to buy me a Cosmopolitan. Who was I to say no? Then, he sealed the deal by offering to carry my heavy stereo power amp out to the car after the party. He helped me get the speakers in the trunk, too. I thanked him in a frothy, feminine way by giving him a chaste little kiss and saying I hoped I would see him at the next Laptop Lounge. He said he would have trouble waiting for that and wondered whether we could see each other sooner. Since he was a gentleman with a nice smile and lovely eyes how could I refuse. He emailed me the next day and we started dating. Our third date was Valentine's Day. Talk about pressure! A third date, already a landmark, happening on Valentine's Day—the most romantic date night of the year! I was a vision in a little black dress and underneath I wore thigh highs and a sexy nightie. I'd have to say it was a crossdresser fantasy come true. The restaurant was giving out roses to all the ladies. Since we were among the last to leave, on our way to his place, they gave me two. A bonus rose! Cue the romantic music, fade to black.

Anyway, going from not dating anyone to being a lady who dates a man has taken some adjustment. (I know someone just screamed, "Do ya think?!") Since the process is still evolving and changing it's hard to put the whole experience into words. Fun, sensual, tender, cozy, all those words apply.

How am I coping with the adjustment process? Communication is so important. As is establishing your relationship rules right up front. I told him right away, maybe the first date or even before, that I am a part-time lady. That means that he is dating Angela but there's another person in our relationship... my male side. It's sort of like I am married to a man and I'm dating another man. Angela is totally into her boyfriend. I love holding his arm as we walk. He opens doors for me and treats me like a total lady. He's always considerate and caring and when I say, "Get the hell off me", he rolls over with no complaint. But, Angela is one part

of my personality and a part-time expression. After several hours as Angela I feel the need to let it all hang out and, for one thing, get that darned wig off. He would probably be able to accept seeing more of my male side than I want to share since he is such a cool guy but I am not ready to be with him in anything less than full Angela mode. I'm a crossdresser, ya know?

He would like to take me on trips and even if I got my body fully waxed and had hair extensions installed so I could be free from the wig I can't shave my face for four or five days without causing skin problems that detract from my beauty. And I refuse to wake up next to my fella and have beard stubble on both of us.

So we do what we can. We see each other two or three times a week, we email, and talk on the phone when our schedules permit. I don't stay overnight at his place and he knows he has to leave my place when I say it's time to go. I worry about him getting home safely and often call to make sure. We often use pet names for each other. God, we're disgusting!

I have told him that the future could hold anything. We might go on dating like we have been for several years. We might break up next month or next year. We might move in together and I might make the hair and beard related modifications it would take to easily be his lady. Honey, dinner's ready! (I'd have all day while he was at work to walk around in men's underwear, be comfortable and belch.) Or I might get looser about sharing more of my male side with him which would open up more possibilities for our relationship. Anything can happen in the future because, well, because it's the future. And that's the thing about change. It can happen at any time. And when it does I'll let you all know.

Now, enough girl talk about my fella. (He's a younger man, too!) There's a whole issue of *LadyLike* for you to explore. Ready, set, start reading!

Email your letters to the editor and pics for Mirror-Mirror to Angela: angela@cdspub.com

Mirror Mirror



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PO Box 311992
New Braunfels, TX
78131



May Lynn C. #4591
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Canton, OH 44708-0574



Lisa Ashley
PO Box 141057
Toledo, OH 43614



Regina, c/o R Lap.
120-18 14 Rd.
College Pt., NY 11356



JoAnn
mine... ❄️❄️❄️



Paula Summers
PO Box 1964
Apopka, FL 32704

The backward writing on Paula's blouse is not something from the Da Vinci Code. It's why we ask you not to write in Magic Marker on the back of your pic.



Angela Gardner
Philadelphia, PA
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Jackie, #3392



Dawn, MA
#3419

Mirror Mirror



Beverly #3903



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Utica, NY 13504-
4408



Cindy
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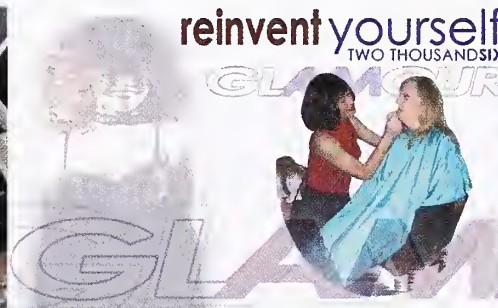
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Night Moves

Buffalo, New York Club Marcella by Vicky Vogue

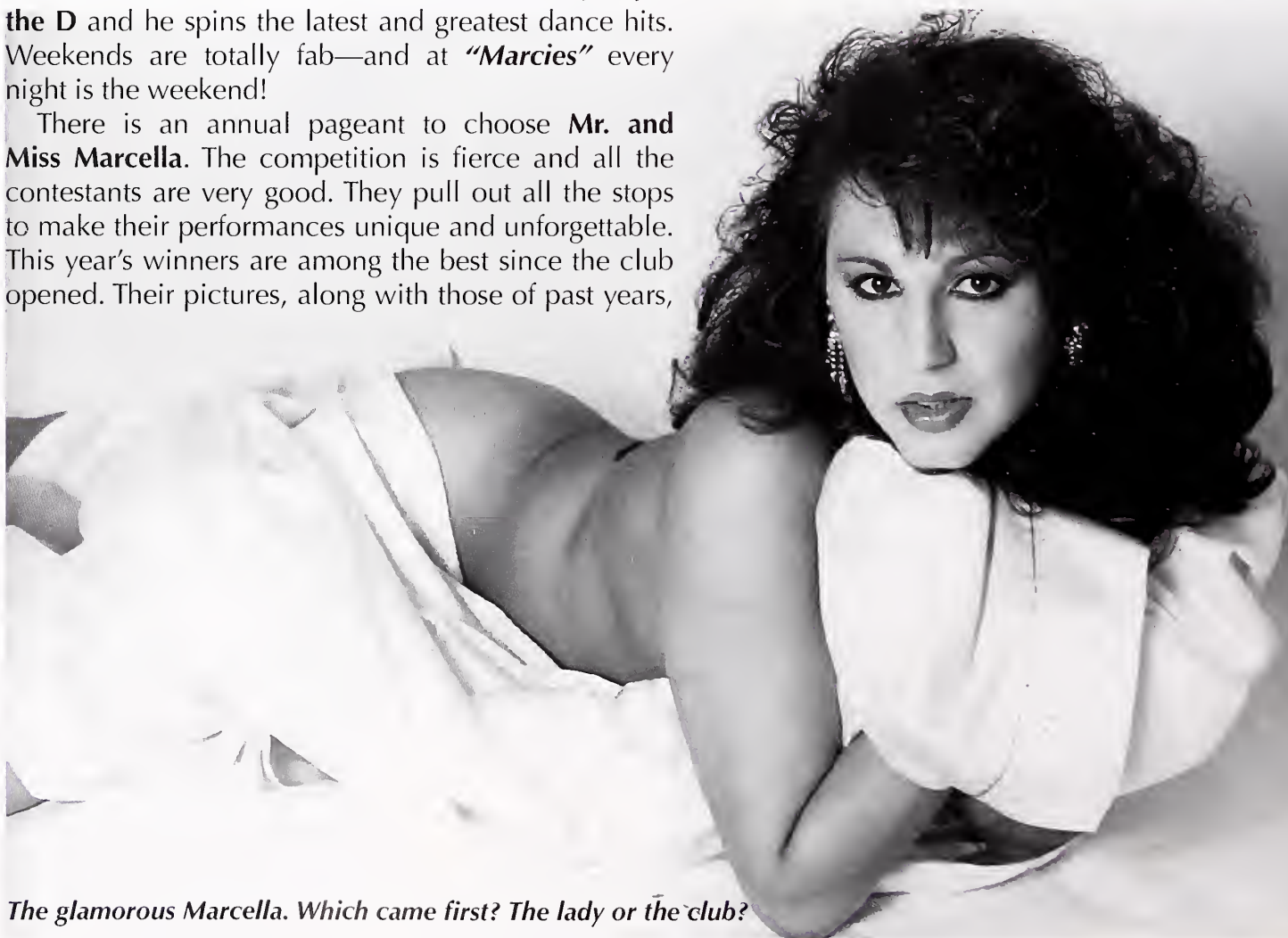
Club Marcella in **Buffalo, New York** is that city's premier club for hot music, hot men and hot, hot drag queens. The cast of regular performers is headline by femcee Fantasee Island. The star attractions are **Armani** and **V**. Those girls have bodies that just won't quit. Many of their costumes are no bigger than three postage stamps. The rest of the performers vary depending on the night and include many fabulous pageant winners and local favorites.

The crowd at **Club Marcella** is mostly young and very eclectic, male and female, gay and straight. What seems to bring them all together at the club at is the incredible music. The favorite house DJ is **Joe the D** and he spins the latest and greatest dance hits. Weekends are totally fab—and at **"Marcies"** every night is the weekend!

There is an annual pageant to choose **Mr. and Miss Marcella**. The competition is fierce and all the contestants are very good. They pull out all the stops to make their performances unique and unforgettable. This year's winners are among the best since the club opened. Their pictures, along with those of past years,



Marcella trains each cast member personally.



The glamorous Marcella. Which came first? The lady or the club?



V cuts quite an authoritarian figure.



Miss Fantasee Island on stage.



Three members of the cast of Club Marcella's show.

can be seen on the club's website: <http://www.marcellashowclub.com>.

There are a number of annual events that keep the club rocking. Among them are *The White Party*, *The Black Party*, and *My Fair Lady* which happens every year on Buffalo's "*Curtain Up*" night which marks the official start of the city's fall theater season.

Marcella's is the place to be for holidays like Memorial Day, Labor Day and just about any other day that has a reason for a celebration. It doesn't take much to bring out the crowd for a great night of fun and frivolity at Club Marcella where the motto is "*Life Is A Drag*".

Club Marcella

622 Main St., Suite 101

Buffalo, NY 14201

716-847-6850

<http://www.marcellashowclub.com>



Night Moves

La Tasca Tapas

By Gina Lake & Lisa Cavoto

Gina, I'm so tired of going to the same old place to wine and dine.

Well, guess what **Lisa**, my Genetic Lady? I know a place and it's downtown. No, not Petula Clark's Downtown, but downtown **Arlington Heights, Illinois**.

Wait—are you talking about that famous Spanish tapas bar and restaurant on **Davis Street**?

Yes!

Gina, this is the place where I bartend (and I have to say, I do it very well). I treat my customers very well, especially you, my 'TG' friend. My management and its employees show great respect and service with a friendly smile.

Lisa, I agree with you, a smile does go a long way.

Gina, at **La Tasca Tapas Restaurant**, everyone of any gender is welcomed and treated with respect. This is the place to be seen, join friends, converse, argue, joke, flirt, and experience the true flavors of Spain in casual elegance.

Enjoy the wide selection of imported wines, or their house special blend Sangria, served with complimentary bread-olives and oil. Hungry? Then try the variety of Tapas, which are small portions of Mediterranean flavored meats, poultrys, veggies, sea food and shell fish. Priced from \$22 and up. Parties of six or more should consider making a reservation. For larger groups, two private rooms are available.

Mix with the Baby Boomers, Gen-Xer's and -Yer's. Enjoy the Spanish style music for your listening and dancing pleasure on the first Thursday of each month, varies on weekends. Dress code is from casual to impress! Hours are 4-11pm, Mon-Thur. Fri-Sat, 4pm till Midnight. Sun 4pm till 10pm.

Say hello to **Lisa** on Fr. and Sat. Better yet, say hello to all the fantastic employees, especially your **Hosts Danny & Peter**. **La Tasca** offers valet parking, also street parking is available.

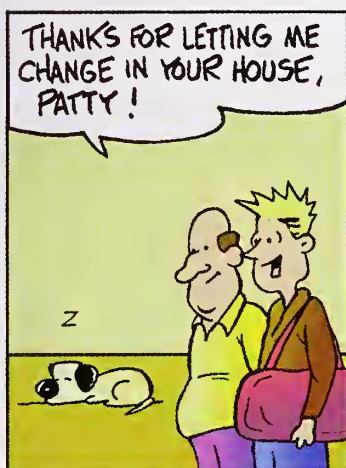
La Tasca Tapas Restaurant

25 W. Davis Street

Arlington Heights Illinois 60005

Ph: 847.398.2400, web: www.LaTascaTapas.com

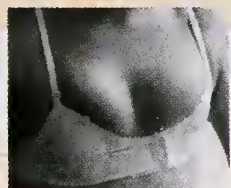




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Current Queens

by Sarah Thomas

I'm excited about this month's Current Queen, not only because she's beautiful, charming, sexy, and witty, but she happens to be from the great Coal Region of Pennsylvania. Ladies, I'm so very pleased to introduce you to the Fabulous Miss Ann Thracite, a bona fide Coal Miner's Daughter.

ST: Ann, thanks for offering up some of your time. I know the drag world is hopping' in the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

AT: Well Sarah, I come from the town known as Nanticoke, a town that literally defines drag. Mostly the circuit consists of Church bazaars, the Shickshinny Polka Round-Up, and an occasional night at the Tiger's Den, where I'm billed as Heidi Himmler.





ST: Isn't the Tiger's Den a Gentleman's Club? Don't the patrons recognize you as a queen?

AT: Have you ever seen the exotic dancers in Nanticoke? Honey they're frightening. I've heard men shout, "Put it on!" during their routines. I'm the best looking one in the place. That and there's just something about a Bavarian serving girl who can juggle kielbasa rings! It really captures the imagination.

ST: Do you hold any titles or participate in pageants?

AT: I was picked as *Miss Coal Cracker* by the local GLBT organization. It was unanimous, all three of the members voted for me. Also, I was named *Potato Pancake Princess* at St. Stanislaw's annual picnic.

ST: Do you get involved in any fund raisers or civic events?



ST: What was that?

AT: Started playing the accordion. I played in some local polka bands when I was sixteen and seventeen but the urge hit me to dress again. I found it was difficult to play the accordion while wearing breasts so I had to make a choice. It was Ann Thracite or the accordion. I think you know who won. As far as transitioning, I have no plans for surgery or anything like that... acrylic nails perhaps.

ST: What are your plans for the future?

AT: Well I wanted to plan a live manger scene for next Christmas but it's difficult in Nanticoke because I can't find three wise men and a virgin. Also, I'd like to travel to a foreign country, someplace exotic like Spokane.

I want to leave you with a joke. Is that OK?

ST: Sure.

AT: Here's one I use in my act. How do you know when a woman from the coal region has her period? She's only wearing one sock.

ST: Get out of here!

Well folks, there you have it. Our very own coal-crackin' mama, the Fabulous Miss Ann Thracite. By the way, if you look closely at her pictures you may well recognize her better as the Fabulous Miss Sarah Thomas. I'm retiring from writing and public life for a while and thought I'd have some fun at the expense of my home town. Remember I love you all and stand with you in your daily dealings with crossdressing.

Do me a favor. Every time you see really big hair and gaudy makeup I want you to think of me and, for a moment, smile. Peace!

Sarah Thomas is the crazed lead guitarist of the band Los Nutsacks and the author of the book, Crop Circles: What Noam Chomsky Isn't Telling Us.

LadyLike thanks Sarah Thomas for her years of hard work at the word processor covering the ladies who strut their stuff in drag clubs across the land. Miss Thomas is retiring to spend more time with her lingerie collection and work for world peace. Starting next issue the Current Queen column will be written by the well-manicured hands of the fabulous Vicky Vogue.

AT: Well, many queens get involve with GLBT community specific charities. In this area I think there are different needs. I work with a coalition of hairdressers for our "Death to Mullets" campaign. We're making a difference. I'm also the organizer of the "8-track! Bring 'em back!" movement. In my opinion, nothing sounds better than Uriah Heep on the old 8-track.

ST: Speaking of Uriah Heep, I understand you incorporate some heavy music into your act.

AT: Yes, I sing the songs of Mariah Carey to a heavy metal background. That was the genesis of "Mariah Heep"

ST: Do you consider yourself to be transgendered, or transsexual? Are you planning to transition?

AT: I've been dressing up since I was twelve. It was tough in those days but I managed to get my hands on a Catholic School uniform and a candy striper outfit. I really wanted to be a girl back then but that was unheard of so I did the only thing I could.



Summer is here again. It's a time for vacations at the shore, baseball games, barbecues, and for many of us, time to put away our feminine things for a few months. We don't shave, and we don't wear

bikinis at the beach.

We hibernate, and wait for September, that glorious first month of long sleeves and long pants that allow us to cover up any feminine enhancements that we might make. Summer is also time for reading. Now there are, of course, an abundance of summer reading lists for you to consult before hitting the beach, or the back porch swing. I thought it would be interesting to provide you with some selections I think would be of interest to you. You won't find most of these on the *New York Times* Best Seller List, but I'm sure you will find them interesting and informative reading. Without further ado, here is the Glamour Bits Top Ten Summer Reading List!

Fetish photography, while an often underground art form, continues to fascinate and entice many with its beautiful and sometimes dark images. Here are a couple of selections that will give the novice and experienced aficionado.

10: *Fetish* (Paperback)
by Tony Mitchell (Editor)

The work of 48 photographers is included in this great introduction to the world of fetish. Check out the redhead with the blue rope!

Hardcover: 224 pages
Publisher: Carlton Books;
Deluxe edition (October 28, 2002)

Language: English
ISBN: 1858688248
Paperback: 222 pages
Publisher: Thunder's Mouth Press (November 1999)
Language: English
ISBN: 1560252537



9: *Obsession: Photographs* (Hardcover)
by Martin Rafael Class, Marc Blackie (Introduction)
Hardcover: 159 pages
Publisher: Mixofpix (September 30, 2005)

Language: English
ISBN: 3938029013

The photos in this book are a little more hard core than those in fetish, but still not way way out there. You can check out more about the photographer Martin Rafael Class at his website: <http://www.rafaelclass.com>. From the photos included there, this guys basement must be have quite a rec room!



8: *Latex & Nudes* (Hardcover)
by James
Hardcover: 111 pages
Publisher: Goliath Books
(September 30, 2005)

Language: English
ISBN: 3936709165
Any book with the following ladies: Dita Von Teese (aka Mrs. Marilyn Manson); Julie Strain; Tera Patrick, and Mamie Van Doren as subject matter has to be amazing.



7: *Pin-Up Poster Book: The Elvgren Collection* (Paperback)
by Marianne O. Phillips
Paperback: 48 pages
Publisher: Collectors Pr; 1st edition (June 1992)
Language: English
ISBN: 0963520253

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 10.2 x 14.2 inches

There were more well known pin-up artists, but Gil Elvgren is the top of the class in my book. I can't get enough of his images. If you are looking for posing ideas for your next photo session, these drawings are like a master play book. He also is responsible for the Coppertone girl ads of the 50's and 60's. You know the ones with the girl having her diaper pulled down by a puppy to expose her tan line.



6: *Uncovered: The Hidden Art Of The Girlie Pulp* (Hardcover)

by Douglas Ellis
Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Adventure House; 1 Amer. edition (July 15, 2003)



Language: English
ISBN: 1886937745

Bad girls are my favorite kind. This book has over 400 examples of covers from the great pulp magazines of the past century.

5: *Making Faces* (Paperback)
by Kevyn Aucoin
Paperback: 160 pages
Publisher: Little, Brown
(September 2, 1999)
Language: English
ISBN: 0316286850

The late Kevyn Aucoin was a favorite of many Hollywood actresses, and music divas. This book shows you why. Full of beautiful pictures, and step by step instructions, it's a must if you want to get your makeup right.

4: *Face Forward* (Paperback)
by Kevyn Aucoin
Paperback: 176 pages
Publisher: Little, Brown
(October 25, 2001)
Language: English
ISBN: 0316287059

Another beautiful book from the late master.

3: *The Eyebrow* (Hardcover)
by Robyn Cosio, Cynthia Robins
Hardcover: 208 pages
Publisher: Harper Collins
Publishers (July 2000)
Language: English
ISBN: 0060393262
Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 8.3 x



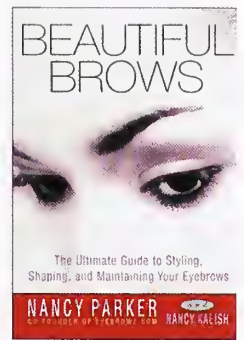
0.7 inches

Beautifully sculpted eyebrows are the ultimate beauty enhancement. Pretty pictures, step by step instructions, and even a chapter on male brows; this book has it all.

2: *Beautiful Brows: The Ultimate Guide to Styling, Shaping, and Maintaining Your Eyebrows* (Paperback)
Paperback: 128 pages
Publisher: Three Rivers Press (October 31, 2000)

Language: English
ISBN: 060980670X

It's a little book, but full of great information on how to make beautiful eye brows.



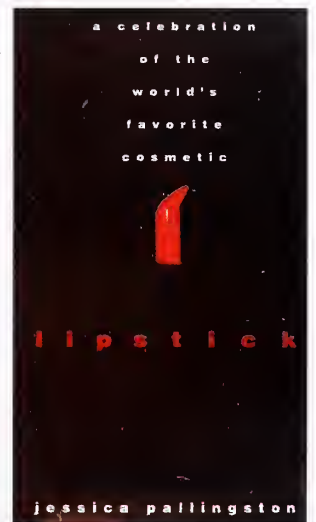
And the number one book on Glamour Bits Top Ten Summer Reading List:

Lipstick: A Celebration of the World's Favorite Cosmetic (Hardcover)

by Jessica Pallington
Hardcover: 240 pages
Publisher: St. Martin's Press; 1st edition (December 15, 1998)

Language: English
ISBN: 0312199147

You'll never feel the same way about everyone's favorite cosmetic again. Witty, and charming, it's a fun and informative read.



I hope you enjoy your reading, and don't forget to wear sunscreen while you're out on the beach expanding your mind, or whatever else you are expanding.

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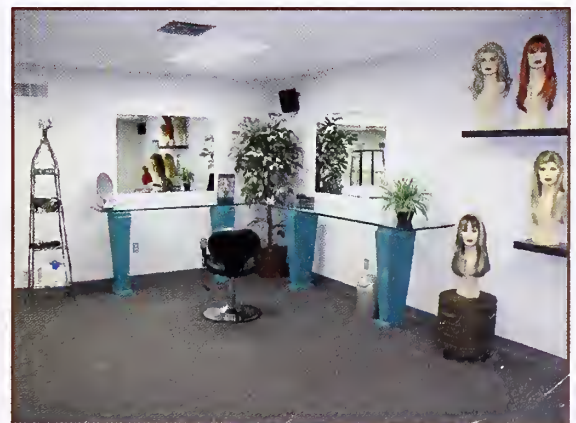
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On My Mind



We recently held primary elections here in Pennsylvania. One of the closely watched votes involved incumbent Republican Senator Rick Santorum. Mr. Santorum easily won his place on the November ballot, despite the efforts of one *LadyLike* reader who wrote-in my name for the office. (Thanks, but I really don't want the job.)

In the November elections, Mr. Santorum will be challenged for his senate seat by Bob Casey, Jr., a well-known Pennsylvania Democrat. One would think this is a no-brainer, but it ain't. Mr. Casey, you see, is Pro-Life, just like his dad, the former Penna. Governor. That puts both Astra and myself in a serious bind. Neither of us would like Mr. Santorum to keep his senate position, but neither of us can support Mr. Casey, either. Looks like there will be more write-ins in November. (Remember, I'm not running!)

For those of you outside Pennsylvania, I hope you have an easier time deciding for whom to cast your vote. It really does seem that all the bad news has finally caught up with the neo-cons: the Iraq war, Hurricane Katrina, NSA phone taps and call logging, not to mention illegal immigrants and \$3/gal. gas. Oh yeah, there'll be a hot time in the Capitol come November.

A bellweather of that coming tussle was played out right here where I live in Chester County, Penna. A Republican bastion, Chester County was the only county in the suburban Philadelphia area that went solidly for George W. Bush in 2004. Well, in this last Primary we also held a "special election" for a state senate seat and Chesco put a Democrat in it. Holy Upset, Batman! Maybe there's hope for us yet.

Wherever you live. Whatever your party affiliation. It's really important (perhaps more than ever before) to vote and have your voice heard.

Okay, on to more mundane things. How many of you noticed that Felicity Huffman was nominated for Best Actress at the Academy Awards (and won the Gloden Globe for Best Actress) for her portrayal of a pre-op transsexual woman who discovers she has a 17 year-old son. The movie, *Transamerica*, was released on DVD just before Memorial Day. In case you missed it at the theaters, check it out.

Perhaps the one movie franchise that says it all for anyone who is different, be it race, religion, cultural, affectional, gender, whatever, is the *X-Men*. What group could possibly be more different than "normals" and still be so diverse in itself? The *X-Men* movies are parables for us all. Don't tolerate intolerance!

As many of you know, Astra and I are heavily into Japanese Anime. One thing we have learned about the Japanese culture is that almost anything goes in their movies, anime (cartoons) and manga (comic books). No subject seems off-putting, especially anything to do with sex. Crossdressing is quite common in anime and many characters are left sexually and genderally (is that a word?) ambivalent. They really don't want you to know!

Nor do they worry about mixing historical fact with fiction. So I should not have been surprised (but I was) when I recently read that coming soon would be an anime about the Chevalier d'Eon. (There is already a manga.) For those of you historically deprived, Charles d'Eon Beaumont, was an eighteenth century French diplomat, spy, and arguably history's most well-known crossdresser. Here is how the anime is described: "Le Chevalier d'Eon" (Knight d'Eon) a diplomat and a special agent working for Louis XIV, is fighting against [religious] cults, and also on a mission to find the killer of his own sister. A mysterious cult organization called *Rose Cross* stands in his way, using vicious powers to create a dark creature, the *Gargoyle* to over take Europe." Shown below is artwork of the Chevalier from the manga. Wow, this could be interesting!

Before I take my leave this issue I'd like to thank Sarah Thomas for her contributions to the magazine. We will miss her sharp wit and keen interviews. At the same time, I want to warmly welcome Vicki Vogue to the family of *LadyLike* contributors. It's a big job to fill Sarah's high heels but I am certain that Vicki is up to the task.

Stay frosty!

—JoAnn Roberts





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